

Appln. No.: 10/004,071
Amdt. dated January 20, 2004
Reply to Office action of November 25, 2003

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

C/ 1. (Currently amended) A gasket comprising
a gasket plate defining[[.]]
[[an]] a non-circular aperture through said plate having a center
surrounded by a plurality of angularly spaced outwardly curved edge portions spaced
from one another by a plurality of inwardly curved edge portions with said outwardly
curved edge portions being spaced a greater distance from said center than said inwardly
curved edge portions for forming, [[and]] an annular flange surrounding said aperture and
formed as one piece of the same material as said gasket plate and extending perpendicular
to said plate to a wavy outer edge [[varying]] defined by said edge portions to vary
between crests and valleys for folding into surface-to-surface contact with an annular
portion of said plate surrounding the aperture to provide a stopper seal around the
aperture having arcuately spaced areas of varying thickness and varying radial extent
relative to said aperture, whereby the crests define relatively thicker areas of said annular
flange having a relatively greater radial extent than that of relatively thinner areas of said
annular flange defined by the valleys.

2. (Currently amended) The gasket of claim 1, wherein said plate has
bolt-receiving holes spaced radially outwardly from said [[flange]] aperture in arcuately
spaced relation to one another around said center, ~~and the valleys of said flange said~~
~~outwardly curved edge portions~~ being adjacent to said bolt-receiving holes ~~to be of said~~
~~lesser thickness~~ and of said lesser radial extent than that of ~~the crests of said flange said~~
inwardly curved edge portions being spaced more distant from said bolt-receiving holes.

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9 3. (Currently amended)

A gasket comprising

a gasket plate,

an aperture through said plate, and

an integral annular tubular flange extending in a constant thickness perpendicular to said plate to an annular wavy edge varying in height between highs and lows whereby, said flange may be doubled over into surface-to-surface contact with an annular portion of said plate surrounding the aperture to provide a stopper seal around the aperture having arcuately spaced areas of varying thickness and an outer annular margin of varying radial extent relative to said aperture.

4. (Previously amended)

The gasket of claim 3, wherein said plate has bolt-receiving holes spaced radially outwardly from said flange in arcuately spaced relation to one another, and the lows of said flange being adjacent to said bolt-receiving hole and of lesser thickness than the areas highs of said flange being more distant from said bolt-receiving holes.

Claim 5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Canceled)

Claim 8. (Canceled)